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## BENNETT RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

### *Delivers Westminster Commencement Address*

**SALT LAKE CITY** -- Westminster College today honored Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) for his years of public service and his commitment to higher education in Utah by conferring upon him an honorary doctorate during the college's commencement exercises.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Westminster College and President Peggy Stock. I always enjoy my visits to this campus to lecture and participate in community events and feel a strong kinship here," Bennett said. "As a private, non-denominational, liberal-arts college, Westminster fills a unique and important role in Utah higher education. I'm pleased to now consider Westminster my alma mater."

During the exercises at which some 500 students received degrees, President Stock presented Bennett with an honorary doctorate of public service, praising him for service to the community and calling him "a true friend of all of us who believe in higher education."

In offering the commencement address, Bennett urged the graduating students to recognize and stay focused on what is truly important amid life's many distractions and reminded them that they now will define their own course in life. "The time of answering the questions of the faculty is now over," Bennett said. "The time when you must ask your own questions and be judged on the quality of both your questions and your answers is now beginning."

Bennett's public service includes jobs as an aide to former congressman Sherman P. Lloyd (R-Utah) and as congressional liaison in the U.S. Department of Transportation during the Nixon administration. He currently serves on five committees in the United States Senate: Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs; Governmental Affairs; Small Business; and Joint Economic Committee.

Bennett's long commitment to improving education in Utah dates from before his days in the U.S. Senate, when he served as chairman of the state's Education Strategic Planning Commission. In addition to his legislative efforts in support of education, Bennett is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer on campuses throughout Utah.

Bennett is a 1957 graduate and former student-body president of the University of Utah and was a 1996 recipient of an honorary doctor of humane letters degree from Salt Lake Community College.

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